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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

AFCAC

DECISION

SUBJ: (U) Review of DISCOVERER, SENTRY, and MIDAS Programs

DATE: 19 August 1959

TO: DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, DEVELOPMENT  
DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, OPERATIONS  
ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, INTELLIGENCE

1. On 17 August 1959 the Chief of Staff approved:

a. Funding of DISCOVERER, SENTRY, SENTRY ANNEX, and MIDAS, as shown in TAB A, for planning and programming purposes.

b. Necessary action to include MIDAS on the Master Urgency List.

c. Use of the existing launch Complex 65-1 at Vandenberg AFB for the SENTRY ANNEX Program.

2. In approving the above, the Chief of Staff noted that:

a. Funds to support the FY 1960-1961 requirement for DISCOVERER are programmed for transfer to ARPA.

b. Additional FY 1960 procurement funds will be required to solve the expenditure problems associated with the following programs:

|              |                     |
|--------------|---------------------|
| SENTRY       | \$ 5.9 Million      |
| SENTRY ANNEX | 14.0 Million        |
| MIDAS        | <u>29.1 Million</u> |

TOTAL \$49.0 Million

c. Although the Air Force has programmed approximately \$28.9 million in FY 1960 procurement funds for the USAF-ARPA funded MIDAS program, a total of \$58 million in FY 1960, and \$125.4 million in FY 1961 is considered to be the minimum AF procurement for this program to meet the July 1961 operational date. ARPA, however, has reduced its FY 1960 funding for MIDAS by approximately \$22.6 million which may require the Air Force to fund for this additional amount.

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E.O. 12065, Sec. 3-402

BY

DATE

5/11/81

PARTIAL TRANSCRIPTION - ORIGINAL FOLLOWS

a. The Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence revalidate the requirement for high resolution photography in the SENTRY ANNEX program as a basis for reinstating the capsule recovery phase of that program.

b. The Deputy Chief of Staff, Development, investigate the possibility of performing that development effort associated with the SENTRY's ground readout as well as the computing and display systems at the operational site in Omaha.

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d. ARPA has directed that of SENTRY ANNEX be deferred, and accordingly has reduced its FY 1960 funds approximately \$25.0 million. The recovery phase supports an intelligence requirement for high resolution photographic mapping.

e. A launch facility for the SENTRY ANNEX at Point Arguello, California would increase funding requirements for this program by \$27.3 million, would not resolve range safety problems, and may present potential command and control problems.

f. Use of Complex 65-1 at Vandenberg AFB for the SENTRY program should not affect future planning to acquire the Sudden Ranch Area for additional launch sites.

g. Combining the facilities for SENTRY ANNEX photographic and ELINT data inputs with existing intelligence facilities at SAC Headquarters in Omaha would permit a savings of approximately \$2.7 million.

3. It is directed that appropriate action be taken on the above and that:

a. The Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence revalidate the requirement for high resolution photography in the SENTRY ANNEX program as a basis for reinstating the capsule recovery phase of that program.

b. The Deputy Chief of Staff, Development investigate the possibility of performing that development effort associated with the SENTRY's ground receiver as well as the computing and display systems at the operational site in Omaha.

1 Incl  
TAB A--Pending Program

*[Handwritten signature]*  
CH 5  
Chief of Staff

FUNDING PROGRAM  
(In Millions)

|              |         | <u>FY 1960</u> |               | <u>FY 1961</u> |               |
|--------------|---------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| DISCOVERER   | (P-200) | \$34.6         | <u>\$34.6</u> | \$34.6         | <u>\$34.6</u> |
| SENTRY       | (P-200) | 5.9            |               | 0              |               |
|              | (P-300) | 10.8           |               | 0              |               |
|              |         |                | <u>16.7</u>   |                | <u>0</u>      |
| SENTRY ANNEX | (P-200) | 25.1           |               | 61.1           |               |
|              | (P-300) | 5.1            |               | 2.2            |               |
|              |         |                | <u>30.2</u>   |                | <u>63.3</u>   |

the SENTRY ANNEX program is for re-installing the capsule recovery phase of the program.

b. The Deputy Chief of Staff, Development, investigate the possibility of performing that development effort associated with the SENTRY's ground resident as well as the computing and display systems at the operational site in Omaha.

1 Incl  
TIB A-Pending Program

John E. Smith  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
Development

FUNDING PROGRAM  
(In Millions)

|              |         |        | <u>FY 1960</u> | <u>FY 1961</u> |
|--------------|---------|--------|----------------|----------------|
| DISCOVERER   | (P-200) | \$34.6 | <u>\$34.6</u>  | <u>\$34.6</u>  |
| SENTRY       | (P-200) | 5.9    |                | 0              |
|              | (P-300) | 10.8   |                | 0              |
|              |         |        | <u>16.7</u>    | <u>0</u>       |
| SENTRY ANNEX | (P-200) | 25.1   |                | 61.1           |
|              | (P-300) | 5.1    |                | 2.2            |
|              |         |        | <u>30.2</u>    | <u>63.3</u>    |
| MIDAS        | (P-200) | 58.0   |                | 125.4          |
|              | (P-300) | 12.8   |                | 7.1            |
|              |         |        | <u>70.8</u>    | <u>132.5</u>   |
| TOTALS       |         |        | <u>\$152.3</u> | <u>\$230.4</u> |